

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2821

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, BR
SUBJ: BRAZILIAN PRESS STORIES ON GENSCHER TALKS

REF: A) STATE 087926 B) BRASILIA 2680 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED STATEMENT IN REFTEL A THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA PROMOTED NEWS STORIES ON SUPPOSED NEW USG PRESSURES ON BRAZIL/FRG AGREEMENT DURING GENSCHER VISIT. FROM OUR READING OF THE BRAZILIAN PRESS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SILVEIRA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROMOTING THESE ACCOUNTS.

2. BRAZILIAN PRESS STORIES CLAIMING THAT NEW PRESSURES WERE INVOLVED OR THAT A URANIUM BOYCOTT AGAINST FRG WAS BEING THREATENED HAVE BEEN SIGNED ARTICLES BY THE BONN CORRESPONDENTS OF MAJOR BRAZILIAN DAILIES, PARTICULARLY O ESTADO'S WILLIAM WAACK AND JORNAL DO BRAZIL'S RICARDO KOTSCHO. AS REPORTED REFTEL B THE AUTHORS HAVE IN TURN CITED THE FRG PRESS AS THEIR SOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, ON 4 APRIL WAACK CITED A DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE OF "YESTERDAY" (PRESUMABLY 2 APRIL) AS THE SOURCE OF THE ALLEGATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD SENT A "CIRCULAR TO ALL EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES ALERTING DIPLOMATS THAT THE UNITED
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STATES WOULD IMMEDIATELY CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF ALL NUCLEAR FUEL TO GERMANY. THE MOMENT GERMANY BECOMES INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD LEAD TO BRAZILIAN MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." ACCORDING TO WAACK, THE DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED FOR THIS BOYCOTT TO BE IMPLEMENTED WAS A US PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION THAT BRAZIL AND THE FRG

WERE NOT MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS APPLYING
NEW SAFEGUARDS TO PROJECTS UNDER THE BRAZIL-FRG ACCORD.

3. KOTSCHO CITED THE SAME DER SPIEGEL ARTICLE IN
SOMEWHAT LESS INFLAMMATORY TERMS IN HIS OWN LARGELY
SPECULATIVE PIECE ON 3 APRIL, IN WHICH HE PORTRAYED
THE FATE OF THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORD AS HANGING
IN THE BALANCE OF INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON, BRASILIA, AND BONN
AND WITHIN THE FRG ITSELF. ON 4 APRIL, KOTSCHO CITED
THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG AND DIE WELT AS
CLAIMING THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORD WAS DIRECTLY
AFFECTED BY THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT.
HOWEVER, IN AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE, KOTSCHO PRESENTED THE
GENSCHER VISIT AS FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON BILATERAL NATO MATTERS.

4. SUBSEQUENT COMMENT IN BRAZILIAN PRESS AND OFFICIAL
CIRCLES HAS BEEN GENERALLY ACCURATE AND WELL-INFORMED
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE GENSCHER VISIT AND THE NON-
PROLIFERATION ACT. ON 4 APRIL, FOREIGN MINISTRY
SPOKESMAN LAMPREIA DECLINED TO FUEL THE SPECULATION
ORIGINATING IN THE FRG ABOUT NEW PRESSURES ON THE FRG/
BRAZILIAN ACCORD, AND THE EMBASSY ALSO TOOK STEPS TO
INSURE THAT THE PRESS WAS ACCURATELY INFORMED (WHICH,
IN LARGE PART, IT ALREADY WAS) ON THE PROVISIONS
OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT. THERE HAS BEEN NO
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INDICATION IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA
OR FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES WERE INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL
SPECULATION, AND, SINCE IT IS NOT SILVEIRA'S STYLE TO THOROUGHLY
CONCEAL HIS ROLE IN THIS SORT OF THING, THE EMBASSY IS FAIRLY
CONFIDENT WE WOULD HAVE SEEN HIS HAND IF HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED.

5. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE SOURCE
OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVEIRA HAS BEEN BEHIND THIS. IF THE SOURCE WAS
PAULO FRANCIS, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE
FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, WE WOULD CAUTION THAT
HE IS NOT CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY RELIABLE.
JOHNSON

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